

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 26, and have cancelled claims 2-24, during prosecution of this patent application. Applicants are not conceding in this patent application that the subject matter encompassed by said amended and cancelled claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, since the claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of this patent application. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue the subject matter encompassed by said amended and cancelled claims, and to pursue other claims, in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

The amendment of the specification adds text denoting subject matter that follows the added text in the same sentence and does not add new matter.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 25-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,842,185 B1 (Mavrommati et al.), herein referred to Mavrommati and U.S. Publication No. 2002/0049763 (Seamon).

Applicants respectfully traverse the § 103 rejections with the following arguments.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a): Claims 1 and 25-29

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 25-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,842,185 B1 (Mavrommati et al.), herein referred to Mavrommati and U.S. Publication No. 2002/0049763 (Seamon).

Applicants respectfully contend that claims 1, 26, and 28 are not unpatentable over Mavrommati and Seamon, because Mavrommati and Seamon does not teach or suggest each and every feature of claims 1 , 26, and 28.

A first example of why claims 1, 26, and 28 are not unpatentable over Mavrommati and Seamon is that Mavrommati and Seamon does not teach or suggest the feature: “responsive to selection of a directory of the simultaneously displayed directories and to a navigation along a displayed subdirectory path through the hierarchy of subdirectories to which the selected directory is linked such that the navigation ends with selection of a last subdirectory of the subdirectory path , simultaneously displaying on the display screen display categories, each display category being displayed and identified as text consisting of a title of a corresponding subdirectory of the last subdirectory, each display category comprising display sets”.

The Examiner argues: “ Seamon discloses that the directories of the plurality of directories are simultaneously displayed as text that identifies each directory, each directory being linked to a hierarchy of subdirectories (Figures 9A and 9B). Seamon discloses responsive to selection of a directory of the simultaneously displayed directories and to a navigation along a displayed subdirectory path through the hierarchy of subdirectories to which the selected directory is linked such that the navigation ends with selection of a last subdirectory of the

subdirectory path (page 2, paragraph 31). Seamon discloses simultaneously displaying on the display screen display categories, each display category being displayed and identified as text consisting of a title of a corresponding subdirectory of the last subdirectory, each display category comprising display sets (Figure 9B).”

In response, Applicants note that Seamon, Par. [0031], which the Examiner relies upon, recites: “The database 23 also includes one or more category tables 47. Each record within the category table 47 describes a respective category. In one embodiment, a specific category table 47 may describe multiple, hierarchical category structures, and include multiple category records, each of which may describe the context of a particular category within the one of the multiple hierarchical category structures. For example, the category table 47 may describe a number of real, or actual, categories to which item records, within the item tables 42, may be linked. For example, as shown in FIG. 3, an item table 42 may include a category identifier 62 corresponding to an identifier of one or more real categories defined within the category table 47.”

Applicants respectfully contend that the preceding quote of Seamon, Par. [0031] merely describes category tables 47 of the database 23 depicted in Seamon, FIG. 2. The preceding quote of Seamon, Par. [0031] is totally silent as to the claimed “simultaneously displaying on the display screen display categories” being performed in response to “selection of a directory of the simultaneously displayed directories and to a navigation along a displayed subdirectory path through the hierarchy of subdirectories to which the selected directory is linked such that the navigation ends with selection of a last subdirectory of the subdirectory path”.

Therefore, Mavrommati and Seamon do not disclose the preceding feature of claims 1, 26, and 28.

A second example of why claims 1, 26, and 28 are not unpatentable over Mavrommati and Seamon is that Mavrommati and Seamon does not teach or suggest the feature:

“responsive to selection of a display category of the simultaneously displayed display categories, displaying a viewing screen for the selected display category, the viewing screen comprising a first row of buttons and a second row of buttons, each button in the first row of buttons corresponding to a different display set of the display sets in the selected display category such that each display set is represented by a different button in the first row of buttons, each button in the second row of buttons corresponding to a graphical display in a display set selected via selection of a button in the first row of buttons, said first row of buttons and said second row of buttons being simultaneously displayed in the viewing screen; and

responsive to selection of a first button in the first row of buttons and selection of a second button in the second row of buttons corresponding to the selected first button, displaying in the viewing screen a graphical display corresponding to the selected second button”

The Examiner argues: “Seamon discloses “Seamon discloses responsive to selection of a display category of the simultaneously displayed display categories, displaying a viewing screen of the for the selected display category, the viewing screen comprising a first row of buttons and a second row of buttons (Figure 9C). Seamon discloses each button in the first row of buttons corresponding to a different display set of the display sets in the selected category such that each display set is represented by a different button in the first row of buttons, each button in the second row of buttons corresponding to a graphical display in a display set selected via selection of a button in the first row of buttons (page 4, paragraph 54). Seamon discloses the first row of buttons and second row of buttons being simultaneously displayed in the viewing screen and

responsive to selection of a first button in the first row of buttons and selection of a second button in the second row of buttons corresponding to the selected first button, displaying in the viewing screen a graphical display corresponding to the selected second button (page 4, paragraph 55).”

In response, Applicants note that the Examiner cites Seamon, FIG. 9C as allegedly disclosing “a viewing screen of the for the selected display category, the viewing screen comprising a first row of buttons and a second row of buttons”. Applicants note that Seamon, FIG. 9C depicts the following rows of buttons, hereby denoted as: top row of buttons, middle row of buttons, and bottom row of buttons. The top row of buttons in Seamon, FIG. 9C is the horizontal row of buttons whose first leftmost button is entitled “Ford: Other Models”. The middle row of buttons in Seamon, FIG. 9C is a horizontal row of buttons within the buttons 150. The bottom row of buttons in Seamon, FIG. 9C is the vertical row of buttons under “Picture” in buttons 152. Unfortunately, the Examiner does not identify which of the preceding rows of buttons allegedly represents the claimed “first row of buttons ” and “second row of buttons ”.

Applicants note that the claimed limitation of “displaying a viewing screen for the selected display category, the viewing screen comprising a first row of buttons and a second row of buttons” is required to be “responsive to selection of a display category of the simultaneously displayed display categories”. However, Seamon does not disclose that the top row of buttons, middle row of buttons, and bottom row of buttons in Seamon, FIG. 9C are displayed in response to selection of a display category of the simultaneously displayed display categories.

Therefore, Mavrommati and Seamon do not disclose the preceding feature of claims 1 , 26, and 28.

Moreover, the preceding feature of claims 1, 26, and 28 recites the limitation of “responsive to selection of a first button in the first row of buttons and selection of a second button in the second row of buttons corresponding to the selected first button, displaying in the viewing screen a graphical display corresponding to the selected second button” which links selection of the second button to the button selected as the first button.

In contrast, selection of a button in the middle row of buttons and selection of a button in the top row of buttons are not linked, but rather are independent of each other. In other words, Seamon, Pars. [0054] and [0055], which the Examiner cites and relies upon, does not disclose that a particular button selected from the top row of buttons has any effect on a button that may be selected from the middle row of buttons.

Similarly, selection of a button in the bottom row of buttons and selection of a button in the middle row of buttons are not linked, but rather are independent of each other. In other words, Seamon, Pars. [0054] and [0055], which the Examiner cites and relies upon, does not disclose that a particular button selected from the middle row of buttons has any effect on a button that may be selected from the bottom row of buttons.

Similarly, selection of a button in the bottom row of buttons and selection of a button in the top row of buttons are not linked, but rather are independent of each other. In other words, Seamon, Pars. [0054] and [0055], which the Examiner cites and relies upon, does not disclose that a particular button selected from the top row of buttons has any effect on a button that may be selected from the bottom row of buttons.

Therefore, Mavrommati and Seamon do not disclose the preceding feature of claims 1, 26, and 28.

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully maintain that claims 1, 26, and 28 are not unpatentable over Mavrommati and Seamon, and that claims 1, 26, and 28 are in condition for allowance. Since claim 25 depends from claim 1, Applicants contend that claim 25 is likewise in condition for allowance. Since claim 27 depends from claim 26, Applicants contend that claim 27 is likewise in condition for allowance. Since claim 29 depends from claim 28, Applicants contend that claim 29 is likewise in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully believe that all pending claims and the entire application meet the acceptance criteria for allowance and therefore request favorable action. If the Examiner believes that anything further would be helpful to place the application in better condition for allowance, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below. The Director is hereby authorized to charge and/or credit Deposit Account 09-0457 (IBM). The Attorney's reference number for this case is END-9500.

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